

‘Big Story’ history



Bible verses:

Joshua 1:5-11,16-18

God’s command to Joshua



Aim:

To know the importance of Israel entering
The Promised Land



Today’s fruit:

Patience



Today is an exercise in ‘patience’ for us. We will wrestle with a tricky part of the Bible’s history which might lead to lots of discussion.

In today’s session we will learn about the book of Joshua and start thinking about how we feel about the more violent parts of his story.

The Bible is filled with historical events and eyewitness accounts, but what do we do with the bits of the Bible that we just don’t like? There are many parts of Scripture where horrible things happen, like violent battles where people lose their lives. It can be difficult to see a loving God in these stories.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- Today’s fruit sign: *Patience*
- *Books of the Bible* tick list from Session One (optional)
- The results of how many books the children knew from Session One (optional)
- *Bible books* handout - cut up in advance (decide if this activity is for pairs, small groups or the whole group)
- *Afraid* prayer (optional)

Start it

Say:

To start off our session today, we're going to test your historical knowledge.

You can use the following quiz any way that you like, either asking the children to guess the answers individually, or play in teams.

History quiz

1. Who tried, and failed, to blow up London's Houses of Parliament in 1605? **Guy Fawkes**
2. Which ship sank on her first ever voyage, due to a collision with an iceberg in 1912? **The Titanic**
3. How many wives did King Henry VIII have? **Six**
4. What title is given to the rulers of Ancient Egypt? **Pharaoh**
5. Which famous nurse was born in Jamaica and cared for soldiers from the Crimean War in their 'British Hotel'? **Mary Seacole**
6. In which world war were tanks first used? **World War I**
7. What, in 1666, brought a city to ashes and helped end a bubonic plague outbreak in this city? **The Great Fire of London**
8. In 1963, this man made an iconic speech at the Lincoln Memorial. It is known as the 'I have a dream' speech. Who was he? **Martin Luther King Jnr**
9. The Ancient Romans shared their way of life with countries that became part of the Roman Empire, including their language - but what language did they mainly use? **Latin**
10. In 1969, who became the first man on the moon? **Neil Armstrong**

Adapted from a quiz on homeschoolgroup.hug.com

Say:

There are some parts of our history that are very unpleasant to think about. There are wars and battles where people lost their lives. There are so many examples of people treating each other horrendously and it can be difficult to understand such cruelty. The Bible includes stories that are difficult to get our heads around and we'll be thinking about one of those today.

Sing it

Say:

Our memory verse for this month reminds us that although some parts may be difficult to understand, all Scripture is inspired by God. Let's share it together.

Memory verse

'All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting faults and teaching us how to live correctly.'

(2 Timothy 3:16 *ICB*)

In Session One the children tried to name as many books of the Bible as they could. They either did this activity individually or as a group. Repeat the activity again to see how many more they know now. Compare their results and then sing the song together. You may wish to use the tick list from Session One.

Song

'Books of the Bible' song and lyrics by Mary Rice Hopkins (0:16–4:02)

Tell it

Say:

Around 60 per cent of The Big Story is helped along by history, containing eyewitness accounts of amazing events. Today our history book is called *Joshua*. Joshua was an eyewitness to a moment in the history of Israel when the Israelites finally left the wilderness and entered The Promised Land, or Canaan, where Israel stands on our map today.

Video

Joshua leads (Joshua 1) by Saddleback Kids (2:37)

Watch 0:00 to 1:42. 'The people of Israel looked to Joshua to lead them as Moses had told them. "There he is." [Then Joshua says,] "Yeah."'

Ask:

- Who was Joshua?
- What did Joshua learn from Moses?
- What big announcement did Moses make? How did the people feel about it?
- Moses called Joshua to be the new leader. What did he command Joshua to do?
- How did the people feel after Moses died? Who did they look to as their leader?

Watch: 1:43 to end.

Ask:

- What promise did God make to Joshua?
- What did God tell Joshua to do?
- What did Joshua tell the Israelites?

Say:

God commanded Joshua to be brave and courageous and promised to be with him whatever he faced.

Read:

'Joshua, be strong and brave! You must lead these people so they can take their land. This is the land I promised their fathers I would give them. Be strong and brave. Be sure to obey all the teachings my servant Moses gave you. If you follow them exactly, you will be successful in everything you do. Always remember what is written in the Book of the Teachings. Study it day and night. Then you will be sure to obey everything that is written there. If you do this, you will be wise and successful in everything. Remember that I commanded you to be strong and brave. So don't be afraid. The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go.'

(Joshua 1:6-9 *ICB*)

Say:

Let's watch the clip to learn about some of Joshua's victories.

Video

The walls of Jericho stories of the Bible by Saddleback Kids (3:15)

Say:

At the end of the clip we heard these words:

'Now Joshua was faithful in carrying out God's commands. And the Israelites took many other cities as God told them they would, for God will never fail to fulfil his promises. So the Israelites came to live in the land that God had promised their fathers Abraham, Isaac, Israel, Joseph and Moses many years ago.'

Ask:

- What do you think the clip meant when it said, 'The Israelites took many other cities'?
- What do you think happened to the people living there?
- Although this clip is useful in telling us the story of Joshua, what do you think is missing?
- Why do you think they've missed out all the gory bits?

Say:

There are parts of the Bible, particularly in the Old Testament, that are very violent. It is difficult for us to understand how a loving God would let so many people die in order for the Israelites to claim their land.

Ask:

- Each week we think about a different fruit of the Spirit. Which ones can you remember?
Faithfulness, gentleness, goodness, joy, kindness, love, patience, peace, self-control

– Can you see any of this fruit in Joshua’s story?

Say:

The fruit of the Spirit does not suggest that we take things from others by force. Jesus came a long time after Joshua, but how would Jesus want a leader to behave towards other people today?

Display the *Patience* sign.

Say:

As we read challenging stories in the Bible, we need to ask for God’s patience. We need to take the time to try and understand why such violence is part of God’s Big Story.

Say:

Is violence part of The Big Story because God works with people who are imperfect and are free to make their own choices? Is it because Joshua was working out how to follow God, long before he was shown to us through Jesus?

Say:

We also need the patience to spend time exploring his word and discovering his story for ourselves.

Ask:

How could you take time this week to discover more about God’s Big Story?

Action it

Over the past few weeks, the children have dived into different aspects of God’s Big Story and have been learning the order of the books of the Bible.

This activity can be done as a whole group or in smaller teams. The aim of the activity is for the children, with an adult helper in each group, to put the books of the Bible in order. Use the *Bible books* handout, already cut up. As the children complete this activity, encourage discussion about which parts they would like to explore further. See which group can put the Bible books in order the quickest.

Pray it

Say:

In our Bible story today God promised to be with Joshua as he carried out God’s will. Just like Joshua, when God asks us to step out in faith for him, we can sometimes feel afraid.



Ask:

What kind of fears do you have about stepping out in faith for God?

Encourage the children to discuss their fears and then turn them into prayers. Share the following prayer for them to complete. You may wish to display the prayer.

Dear God,

Sometimes I feel afraid of _____.

Help me to be brave and trust in you.

When all the children have shared, pray with the whole group and finish the session with the song below.

Song

'I won't be afraid' cross culture Norway VBS Music Group Publishing by Lifetree Kids (stop at 2:37)

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



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Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

Joshua 1:5-11,16-18
God's command to Joshua



Aim:

To know the importance of Israel entering The Promised Land



Today's fruit:

Patience



Discover

If you are feeling brave, then read Joshua 6. What parts of it are difficult to understand? What parts do you feel are challenging?



Share

Our fruit of the Spirit for this week is patience. Watch the clip with the people at home and discuss the questions as a family. How can you grow in your patience with each other?

How to be patient (fruit of the Spirit) 5 Minute Family Devotional by Minno Bible Stories for Kids



Song for the week

'Books of the Bible' song and lyrics by Mary Rice Hopkins



Memory verse

'All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting faults and teaching how to live correctly.'

(2 Timothy 3:16 ICB)

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

'Big Story' history



Bible verses:

Joshua 1:5-11,16-18
God's command to Joshua



Aim:

To hear about the leader Joshua



Today's fruit:

Patience



Memory verse

'All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting faults and teaching how to live correctly.'

(2 Timothy 3:16 *ICB*)



Start it

Do you enjoy playing schools? Who likes being the teacher, being in charge of everything? Today we're going to hear about Joshua who became a leader, and was in charge of all the Israelite people.



Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Joshua 1:5-11,16-18.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- Joshua led people into the Promised Land; is there a place you would love to visit?
- Are there people that you follow or people you trust?
- What kind of a leader do you think Jesus was?

- Have you ever had to be 'strong and brave' like Joshua?
- What would you like to say to Jesus if you met him?



Sing It

'The Lions Roar' by Sarah Pickering
uploaded by Vineyard Worship UK & Ireland

'Friend of God' by Israel Houghton uploaded
by Spring Harvest - Topic



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Play follow the leader
- Play Simon ('Joshua') says
- Act out times when we might need to be strong and brave (visiting the dentist, going on a fairground ride)
- Practise ways of staying calm (slow breathing and stretching)
- Act out our 'promised land' (What might you eat there? Would you pick food from trees? How would we travel around?)